

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,389,738 (hereinafter “Piosenka”).

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. (Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (MPEP) ¶ 2131.)

Applicant’s independent claims include limitations not disclosed nor suggested by Piosenka. Therefore, Applicant’s independent claims are not anticipated by Piosenka.

In particular, applicant’s independent claims 1, 5, 9, and 12, include the limitation, or limitation similar thereto, of:

... a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the capacitor. (emphasis added) (Applicant’s claim 1 as previously presented.)

Piosenka does not disclose nor suggest a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the capacitor. Piosenka discloses that comparators 111-113 constantly monitor the voltage output of sensors and compare this output to the reference voltage of a zener diode 110. (Piosenka, Column 4, lines 64-66). Temperature sensors 100-102 and radiation sensors 200-202 are positioned at various random points throughout the semiconductor die, in order to improve the circuit’s chances of detecting

an attack by drilling or milling operations. (Piosenka, Column 4, lines 29-34; Column 6, lines 14-16).

Piosenka , thus, discloses comparators that compare a reference voltage with a voltage at various random points throughout the semiconductor, and does not disclose a comparator that compares a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the capacitor itself.

Therefore, considering applicant's independent claims include limitations that are not disclosed nor suggested by Piosenka, applicant's independent claims are not anticipated by Piosenka.

Furthermore, the remaining claims that were also rejected as being anticipated by Piosenka, depend from one of the independent claims discussed above and therefore also include the distinguishing claim limitations. As a result, the remaining claims are also not anticipated by Piosenka.

CONCLUSION

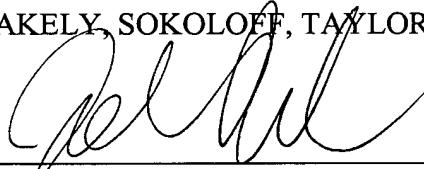
Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John Ward at (408) 720-8300, x237.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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